REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the discussion below. Applicants has been discussed in previously filed response which are incorporated herein by reference with the comments now being addressed to the new rejection based on the newly cited reference to Takagi et al (6,130, 458).

Independent Claim 15 is rejected as anticipated by Takagi under 35 USC 102 while dependent Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious over Takagi over the previously cited reference to Miura (4,993,396) and Claim 17 is rejected over Takagi and the previously cited reference to Foerster (5,828,141). Finally Claim 18 is rejected over Takagi and the previously cited Endo reference.

The object of the present invention is to improve "withstand voltage" and the particular improvement is addressed to the level shift circuit which can create a bottleneck. By improving the signal transmission between the isolated regions, this bottleneck can be eliminated. The present invention provides capacitance coupling as a means to transmit signals between the isolated regions which dissolves the bottleneck and improves the "withstand voltage". Independent claim 15 now recites this capacitive couple for transmitting signals between the isolated power transistors, which is supported in at least Figures 4-7 and the description of the originally filed application.

The Takagi reference '458 has a purpose of preventing the formation of an inversion layer with no consideration of improving the "withstand" voltage and

therefore no structure to accomplish this improvement of reducing the "bottleneck". That is, Takagi does not have the claimed capacitance coupling to transmit signals between isolated semiconductor transistors. As a result there is no structure corresponding to Claim 15 and no purpose of Takagi which would make this structure an obvious variation or inherent.

The previously discussed secondary references to Endo, Foerster, and Miura used in the rejections of dependent Claims 16-18 add nothing toward meeting the claimed limitation of Independent Claim 15 from which each of these claims depend and contain all the limitations thereof.

Newly added dependent Claim 19 depends from Claim 15 and additionally recites that the power semiconductors are connected in series in such a manner that they can be turned on simultaneously as disclosed in the specification at Figures 1-5 and 8-10 and in the specification at Page 8, line 27 through page 9 line 7. This feature also improves "withstand voltage" as it enable operation as a single transistor having N times voltage. This structure is also absent from Takagi which only discloses a "totem pole" connection.

Claim 15 has also been amended to overcome the antecedent basis problem indicated in the objection at section 3 of the Patent Office action.

Therefore in view of the distinguishing features between the claimed invention, as defined by amended independent claim 15 and dependent claims 16-19, and the references of record, applicants respectfully request that this application be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.50307C1).

Respectfully submitted,

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